Calendar No. 967

100TH CONGRESS
2d Session

SENATE

REPORT
100-532

INCREASING THE AMOUNT AUTHORIZED TO BE APPROPRIATED FOR ACQUISITION AT THE WOMEN'S RIGHTS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

SEPTEMBER 22 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 7), 1988.—Ordered to be printed

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Mr. JOHNSTON, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 2952]

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, to which was referred the Act (H.R. 2952) to increase the amount authorized to be appropriated for acquisition at the Women's Rights National Historical Park, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the Act do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE MEASURE

The purpose of H.R. 2952 is to increase the amount authorized to be appropriated for acquisition at the Women's Rights National Historical Park.

BACKGROUND AND NEED

In 1848, a group of three hundred people met in Seneca Falls, New York, to consider the status and needs of women. At that time, women could not vote or exercise other political rights, if married had limited or no control over their wages or property, if divorced often lost custody of their children and had limited access to higher education. The 1848 Seneca Falls Convention, as it came to be known, marks the formal beginning of the effort for women's rights in this country. The Declaration of Sentiments proclaimed there called for women to be treated as full citizens of this country.

The Women's Rights National Historical Park, established in 1980, preserves and interprets those events and their consequences. The park includes the Wesleyan Chapel, site of the Convention, the

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home of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, one of its key organizers, and several other homes and structures. Adjacent to the Wesleyan Chapel is a modern movie theatre and parking lot. On the other side of the theatre and its parking is the old city hall, slated to become the park's visitor center. This would replace the existing inadequate storefront visitor center.

H.R. 2952 increases the authorization for appropriations for land acquisition and development at Women's Rights National Historical Park from $490,000 to $700,000. This will make the acquisition of the movie theatre possible in order to remove its modern intrusion. The park is currently holding a design competition to select a design which will preserve the historic fabric of the Wesleyan Chapel and create a functional park site which will interpret the 1848 Convention and increase visitor understanding of it. Acquisition of the movie theatre will ensure that the design selected will not be damaged by a non-historic intrusion.

Legislative History

H.R. 2952 passed the House on October 27, 1987. A hearing was held before the Subcommittee on August 2, 1988. A Senate companion measure, S. 2564, was introduced on June 23, 1988.

At the business meeting on Wednesday, September 14, 1988, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources ordered H.R. 2952, favorably reported.

Committee Recommendations and Tabulation of Votes

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, in open business session on Wednesday, September 14, 1988, by unanimous vote of a quorum present, recommends that the Senate pass H.R. 2952, as described herein.

The rollcall vote on reporting the measure was 19 yeas, 0 nays, as follows:

YEAS	NAYS
Mr. Johnston	
Mr. Bumpers	
Mr. Ford	
Mr. Metzenbaum	
Mr. Melcher	
Mr. Bradley	
Mr. Bingaman	
Mr. Wirth	
Mr. Fowler	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. McClure	
Mr. Hatfield*	
Mr. Weicker*	
Mr. Domenici	
Mr. Wallop	
Mr. Murkowski*	
Mr. Nickles	
Mr. Hecht	
Mr. Evans	

*Indicates voted by proxy.

Cost and Budgetary Considerations

The Congressional Budget Office estimate of the costs of this measure has been requested but was not received at the time the report was filed. When the report is available, the Chairman will request it to be printed in the Congressional Record for the advice of the Senate.

Regulatory Impact Evaluation

In compliance with paragraph 11(b) of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee makes the following evaluation of the regulatory impact which would be incurred in carrying out H.R. 2952. The Act is not a regulatory measure in the sense of imposing Government-established standards or significant economic responsibilities on private individuals and businesses.

No personal information would be collected in administering the program. Therefore, there would be no impact of personal privacy.

Little, if any, additional paperwork would result from the enactment of H.R. 2952, as reported.

Executive Communications

On July 15, 1988, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources requested legislative reports from the Department of the Interior and the Office of Management and Budget setting forth executive views on H.R. 2952. These reports had not been received at the time the report on H.R. 2952 was filed. When the reports become available, the chairman will request they be printed in the Congressional Record for the advice of the Senate. The testimony provided by the appropriate agency at the Subcommittee hearing follows:

Statement of Denis Galvin, Deputy Director, National Park Service, Department of the Interior

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, it is a pleasure to appear before you today to discuss H.R. 2952, a bill to increase the land acquisition ceiling for Women's Rights National Historical Park in the State of New York.

We recommend enactment of H.R. 2952 but only if it is amended to reduce the amount of the authorized increase. If enacted, H.R. 2952 would raise the land acquisition ceiling for Women's Rights National Historical Park from the current $490,000 to $700,000. Our recommendation would place the new ceiling at $600,000.

As passed by the House of Representatives on October 27, 1987, H.R. 2952 would increase the land acquisition ceiling at Women's Rights National Historical Park to $700,000 so that the theater at 128 Fall Street in Seneca Falls, New York can be acquired. This is the only unacquired tract of land remaining of those identified for fee acquisition by Public Law 96-607, the Act which established the park. As a point in fact, this bill is technical in nature in that it would authorize the National Park Service to reprogram $100,000 of existing funds to acquire this tract. Located in the center of the

Village of Seneca Falls and adjacent to the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, this tract consists of 0.28 acres with a cinder block movie theater and wood frame house on it. This area is proposed to be the focal point of the park.

Women's Rights National Historical Park was established by Title XVI of Public Law 96-607 on December 28, 1980. The park consists of nine designated sites in Seneca Falls and Waterloo, New York associated with the nineteenth century women's rights movement.

One of the designated sites, the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel in Seneca Falls, was the site of the Women's Rights Convention in 1848. This convention marked the formal beginning of the struggle by women to gain equal rights.

Since the establishment of the park the National Park Service has completed a general management plan for the park, the State of New York has completed an Urban Cultural Park Management Plan, and all other sites designated for free acquisition in the authorizing legislation have been acquired. Park visitation has increased from 7,000 in 1984 to 17,000 in 1987.

The land acquisition ceiling was originally established at $490,000. To date $500,000 has been appropriated. While the National Park Service had an offer to sell from the owner of this property in December 1986, we were unable to accept this offer, and it expired on June 12, 1987. This occurred because we were unable to reprogram existing land acquisition funds within the North Atlantic Region to purchase this property due to insufficient authority in the land acquisition ceiling for Women's Rights National Historical Park. Therefore, we recommend that the ceiling be increased only by $110,000 so that this reprogramming may proceed and the acquisition can be completed in a timely fashion. We estimate that we would need approximately $100,000 in additional authority to cover this proposed reprogramming plus an additional $10,000 to cover the authority that has been exceeded by appropriations to date. I want to emphasize that we are supporting authority that would enable us to reprogram existing funds. No new appropriations are required. There are sufficient unobligated funds available that, together with the $100,000 we would reprogram, we could utilize to purchase this property from the willing seller.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my prepared testimony on H.R. 2952. I would be pleased to respond to any questions you or the other Members of the Committee may have.

Changes in Existing Law

In compliance with paragraph 12 of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, changes in existing law made by the Act, H.R. 2952, as ordered reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italic, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

ACT OF DECEMBER 28, 1980

(94 Stat. 3539, 3546; 16 U.S.C. 410ll(i))

To provide with respect to the national park system; for the establishment of new units; for adjustments in boundaries; for increases in appropriation authorizations for land acquisition and development; and for other purposes

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TITLE XVI

WOMEN'S RIGHTS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

SEC. 1601. (a) * * *

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(i) There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section, but not to exceed [$490,000] *$700,000* for acquisition, and $500,000 for development.

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